

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 AID-20 EB-11 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9080

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, UNDP, CD

SUBJC: UNDP - LAKE CHAD BASIN COMMISSION

REF: YAOUNDE 2764

1. FOLLOWING RECEIPT REFTEL MISOFF HAS HAD OPPORTUNITY DISCUSS LCBC WITH UNDP. AT LEAST AT STAFF LEVEL UNDP AFRICA BUREAU PERSONNEL CANDIDLY ADMIT, ALBEIT INFORMALLY, THAT STATE OF RELATIONS WITH LCBC DUE IN PART TO POOR MANAGEMENT BY UNDP.

2. THE OFFICER HERETOFORE RESPONSIBLE FOR LCBC PROJECTS HAS RETIRED, AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR THESE PROJECTS NOW RESTS WITH TWO COMPETENT OFFICERS WELL KNOWN TO USUN, I.E. REGIONAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR JUAN BLANCH-SOLAR AND CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION ACTING CHIEF LEON SEGAL. THE NEW ARRANGEMENT HAS ONLY BEEN IN PLACE FOR ABOUT A MONTH AND TONWE MAY NOT SEE IMPROVEMENTS IMMEDIATELY.

3. INsofar ASSALE-SERVEWEL CONCERNED IT IS UNFORTUNATE, ALTHOUGH PROBABLY UNDERSTANDABLE, THAT TONWE HAS DRAWN CONCLUSIONS CITED PARA (6) REFTEL, PARTICULARLY RE UNDP TAKING ALL THE CREDIT AND SEEKING SEPARATE ITS CONTRIBUTION TO PROJECT. AS NEAR AS THOSE
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NOW RESPONSIBLE FOR PROJECT CAN TELL WHOLE THING IS A SERIES OF

MISUNDERSTANDINGS ENGENDERED BY SOMETHING LESS THAN SOUND PROJECT MANAGEMENT. MISOFF INCLINED AGREE.

4. UNDP, FIRST OF ALL, DOES NOT HAVE OR NEED A PROTOCOL AGREEMENT WITH, FOR EXAMPLE, THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY (EAC), NOR DOES UNDP NEED A PROTOCOL WITH LCBC. WHAT UNDP DOES HAVE FROM EACH OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF EAC IS A LETTER REFERRING TO THEIR BASIC AGREEMENTS WITH UNDP AND, IN SHORT, SAYING UNDP MAY DEAL WITH EAC RE PROJECTS ON THEIR BEHALF WHILE THEY, FOR THEIR PART, WILL ASSUME RESPONSIBILITIES, GUARANTEES ET AL PURSUANT TO THOSE BASIC AGREEMENTS. THE REASON FOR THIS IS THAT UNDP'S ENABLING LEGISLATION PERMITS IT TO RESPOND ONLY TO REQUESTS FROM GOVERNMENTS AND, TO DO OTHERWISE, UNDP NEEDS WHAT AMOUNTS TO A DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY.

5. UNDP SAYS IT WOULD MUCH PREFER TO DO BUSINESS WITH LCBC RATHER THAN THE INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES. THOSE NEWLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ASSALE-SERBEWEL HAVE SENT TONWE A DRAFT LETTER FOR CHAD OF THE TYPE REFERRED TO ABOVE BY COVER LETTER DATED JULY 27 AND POUCHED FROM NY JULY 30. THUS, TONWE SHOULD NOW HAVE A COPY OF WHAT UNDP NEEDS, FROM EACH OF THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED, TO ENABLE IT TO DO BUSINESS DIRECTLY WITH LCBC. MISOFF WILL TRY OBTAIN COPY OF LETTER AND FORWARD IT TO RDO.

6. COMMENT: SINGLE THING WHICH WOULD PROBABLY IMPROVE RELATIONS MOST IS GETTING AFOREMENTIONED LETTERS TO UNDP TO ENABLE IT DO BUSINESS WITH LCBC. IT UNCLEAR TO MISOFF, HOWEVER, WHETHER INITIATIVE IN THIS RESPECT IS MORE APPROPRIATE FROM TONWE OR UNDP OR, PERHAPS, IN COLLABORATION. IN ANY CASE TONWE SHOULD NOW HAVE A COPY OF WHAT UNDP NEEDS AND, NOTWITHSTANDING HIS SENSITIVITIES AND QUESTION WHO SHOULD TAKE INITIATIVE, RDO MAY WISH ENCOURAGE TONWE TO TRY AND GET THESE LETTERS MOVING. IN MEAN-TIME MISOFF WILL SEEK UNDP VIEWS ON WHO SHOULD BE CARRYING THE BALL. ONE SUSPECTS THE WEAK LINK IN UNDP - LCBC RELATIONS IS THE UNDP FIELD PERSONNEL WITH WHOM TONWE MUST DEAL. THE NEW ARRANGEMENT AT HEADQUARTERS, AND ATTENTION TO PROJECT MANAGEMENT, WILL HOPEFULLY, OVER TIME, IMPROVE THIS ASPECT OF THE PROBLEM. RDO MAY WISH INFORM TONWE THIS CHANGE. END COMMENT.

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